16/ (Amended)   The method of claim 1, in which the card memory includes information about the kind of goods or service to be delivered, which information is updated before any delivery of said goods or service.
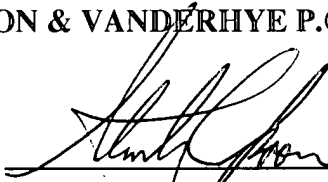
REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**."

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____
Stanley C. Spooner
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:ms
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3/ (Amended) The method of [either preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which conditional debiting of the card is also subordinate to a time delay elapsing since the preceding operation of putting the flag into the non-ratified state.

4/ (Amended) The method of [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which conditional debiting of the card is also subordinate to the machine performing the current transaction belonging to a group to which the machine that performed the preceding transaction also belongs.

5/ (Amended) The method of [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which, when the flag is in the non-ratified state, delivery without debit is inhibited if the machine detects that delivery took place during the preceding use of the card.

6/ (Amended) The method of [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which card debiting and putting the flag into the non-ratified state are performed in indivisible manner.

7/ (Amended) The method of [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which at least a portion of the information modifying the state of the card, in particular commands enabling the flag to be put into the ratified state, is previously processed by cryptographic means implemented both in the card and in the machine.

8/ (Amended) The method according to [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which at least a portion of the information relating to the state of the card, in particular the state of the flag and confirmation that the debit has taken into account, is previously processed by cryptographic means implemented both in the card and in the machine.

9/ (Amended) The method of [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which the goods or service is delivered in deferred manner after a given time delay.

12/ (Amended)   The method of [any preceding claim] <u>claim 1</u>, in which the information interchanged between the machine and the card is enciphered in such a manner as to avoid

revealing the moment at which the machine instructs the card to put the flag into the ratified state, or the moment at which the card performs that instruction.

13/ (Amended)   The method of [any preceding claim] claim 1, including, in the machine, counting the number of occasions on which it reads a flag in the non-ratified state.

14/ (Amended)   The method of [any preceding claim] claim 1, including the card counting the number of occasions on which it stores the flag in the non-ratified state between two transactions.

15/ (Amended)   The method of claim 13 [or 14], in which means are provided to indicate that a given threshold has been exceeded by the count in the card, in particular means for inhibiting subsequent delivery of goods or service.

16/ (Amended)   The method of [any preceding claim] claim 1, in which the card memory includes information about the kind of goods or service to be delivered, which information is updated before any delivery of said goods or service.

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